

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Summary of Invention section on page in paragraphs [0009] - [0011] with the following amended section:

--In view of the foregoing, the present invention has been made to overcome the problems described above and an object of the present invention is to provide a scheme in which, when a mismatch of correspondence of, for example, an IP address and/or MAC address is detected, a warning indicating the status thereof can be promptly and appropriately issued to an administrator or a maintenance service provider.

To achieve the above object, the present invention provides a scheme in a remote monitoring system for an image forming apparatus. The scheme includes an information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined device capable of performing communication over a network. The information processing apparatus: (1) holds corresponding information corresponding to first device identification information and second device identification information; (2) obtains accounting information based on an image forming operation from the predetermined device; (3) compares a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information which are obtained from the predetermined device with the held corresponding information, and determines whether or not at least one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed another combination. In accordance with a result of the comparison, the information processing apparatus controls issuance of a notification to an external apparatus. The external apparatus can receive the notification through a predetermined communications line and manages

a plurality of information processing apparatuses. The held corresponding information is updated in accordance with an update notification, for updating the combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus, and the notification issued includes information indicating that either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed. The issuance of the obtained accounting information to the external apparatus is restricted if it is determined that either the first device identification information or second device identification information is not being managed, and is not restricted if the corresponding information is updated.

Further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments with reference to the attached drawings.--